

Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii* in Venezuela

On 12 July 1999, together with Nancy Lyman and Gary Sowell, I observed a pair of Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii* in Parque Nacional Yacambú, Lara state, Venezuela. The observation was made at 1,680 m in good light with the birds perched c.7 m up in a tree close to the road and, at one point, on an open limb. They were obviously large fruitedeaters, being noticeably bigger than either Handsome *Pipreola formosa* or Golden-breasted Fruitedeaters *P. aureopectus*. The following description was taken: bill noticeably heavy; cap black in male and bronzy olive in female; white loreal area and prominent malar; throat and collar lightly scaled olive, below which there was a narrow black collar reaching from the hindneck to the sides of the lower neck but not meeting on the underparts; underparts pale yellow, heavily scaled olive; back and upperwing-coverts black, heavily scaled darker bronzy olive, especially on the coverts; unscaled bronzy-olive patch in the wing; flight feathers blackish with small bronzy-olive tips; tail bronzy olive, barred yellow and black with white tips. This observation extends the species' range north-eastward by c.350 km.

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Additional breeding data for Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops*

Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops* is considered Vulnerable¹ and is restricted to the Chocó Endemic Bird Area of north-west Ecuador and south-west Colombia⁴. It is patchily distributed in thick undergrowth of montane evergreen forest at 1,200–2,600 m⁴. The few breeding data comprise a male in breeding condition in June, a juvenile following adults the same month², and a nest with a single egg in

November–December². In this context, we detail an observation at Bellavista Lodge, Tandayapa, Pichincha province, Ecuador, where the species has been seen regularly in recent years (see e.g. Lowen unpubl. trip report, available from the Neotropical Bird Club address as part of the NBC trip report series) and where the only known nest was discovered in 1996².

On 26 December 1997, we (together with O. Rodriguez and D. Becker) observed two adults feeding a juvenile 2–3 m up in tangled roadside forest growth. The juvenile was flicking its wings and begging for food. Its plumage was dowdier than that of the adults (but otherwise identical) and thus *contra* Hilty & Brown³, who describe juveniles as 'duller [than adults], mainly brownish with ferruginous back; black wings and tail; and faint head pattern'. The adults were giving a sharp bush-tanager-like *tseet* call, as described by Greeney *et al.*² and unlike the whistled, frog-like *wert* known from Colombia³. Taken with the nest record from the same locality, our observation suggests that the breeding season of *Oreothraupis arremonops*, at least in Pichincha province, Ecuador, includes November–December; a surprise given that the only other evidence (from Colombia) would point toward June as the nesting season. It is conceivable that the species is double-brooded. Further fieldwork could obviously help clarify the situation.

References

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3. Hilty, S. L. & Brown, W. L. (1986) *A guide to the birds of Colombia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
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New records and updates for Mindo, Ecuador

The following species have recently been observed by the authors near Mindo, Ecuador, at 00°02'S 78°48'W, at elevations between 1,200 and 1,600 m. Although this area has been subject to considerable ornithological activity, these new records indicate that much is still to be learned about the avifauna of the locality. New locality records were determined by reference to Kirwan & Marlow², while general comments concerning altitude were drawn from standard reference works^{4,6}.

**New records
Single Least Grebes**

Tachybaptus dominicus were observed in Mindo, at c.1,350 m, on 3 December 1998 and 6 January 1999, feeding in small ephemeral ponds. The species is